9/27/72

Dear Jack,

Let me respond in haste to your letter of the 24th.

In general I agree with your idea. I don't think it can come to pass and I can't justify the time myself. There is too much to do that others are talking about but not doing. If you did not propose it for Dallas I'd not be in agreement. It may wrench your p.r. man's heart, but I believe we are long past the point where an occasional mention to a limited audience serves any useful purpose. Quite the opposite, every time an editor sees something that he can't evaluate or thinks or knows isn't new, his reaction is, "More of that crap!" and then, when something of meaning reaches him, he reacts the same way, probably in most cases not even taking the time to read it.

I also believe we are past the point of theorizing. We have, or some of us have, enough solid fact. This irresponsibile theorizing or worse, presenting wild theories as though there were established fact, has been ruinous and has destroyed the credibility of the few responsibles along with that of the many irresponsible who do and did it. I won't be part of any theorizing, won't even appear where it is to be done. In fact, I have in the past refused. I don't see any prospect of changing. And there are some with whom I would no longer appear in publish, they are that crazy and have done that much harm to truth and credibility.

Good intentions are not nearly enough. We are not selling deodorants!

This is a very serious business.

I don't think anything will work out. If it should under these circumstances, I would be quite willing to be of what help I might. And I can't be part of the organizing of it. I've too far behind in too much work.

Thank and best,